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PATENT

**APPLICATION
for
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT**

by
PETER BREITINGER

on the invention entitled

**COMBINATION ADJUSTABLE HOLDER TO RETAIN
PREMOISTENED WIPES, TOILET PAPER AND/OR AIR
FRESHENERS AND OTHER TOILET OBJECTS
ADJACENT A TOILET**

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prepared by

ROZSA & CHEN LLP
Attorneys At Law
15910 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 1601
Encino, California 91436-2815
Telephone (818) 783-0990
Facsimile (818) 783-0992
e-mail: counsel@rozsa-chen.com

1 **COMBINATION ADJUSTABLE HOLDER TO RETAIN**
2 **PREMOISTENED WIPES, TOILET PAPER AND/OR AIR**
3 **FRESHENERS AND OTHER TOILET OBJECTS**
4 **ADJACENT A TOILET**

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6 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**
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8 **1. Field of the Invention**
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10 The present invention generally relates to the field of toilet accessories that are useful for
11 retaining objects which a person would use while on the toilet.

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13 **2. Description of the Prior Art**
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16 In general, toilet tissue holders are well known in the prior art. To facilitate elevated
17 personal hygiene, it has also been known to have a holder for premoistened towelettes to
18 dispense these adjacent a toilet. The following patents disclose the known prior art in this field.

19
20 1. United States Patent No. Des. 245,225 issued to Lyons on August 2, 1977 for
21 "Moist Towel Dispenser" (hereafter the "Lyons Patent");
22

23 2. United States Patent No. 4,807,823 issued to Wyant on February 28, 1989 for
24 "Bathroom Tissue Dispenser" (hereafter the "Wyant Patent");
25

26 3. United States Patent No. 5,311,986 issued to Putz on May 17, 1994 for
27 "Premoistened Wipe Dispenser For Conventional Toilet-Tissue Roll Holders" (hereafter the
28 "Putz Patent");

- 1 4. United States Patent No. 5,443,084 issued to Saleur on August 22, 1995 for
2 "Paper Moistener Device And Moist Toilet Paper Dispenser" (hereafter the "Saleur Patent");
3
- 4 5. United States Patent No. Des. 377,284 issued to Farrow on January 14, 1997 for
5 "Combined Toilet Paper And Moist Towelette Dispenser" (hereafter the "Farrow Patent");
6
- 7 6. United States Patent No. 5,660,313 issued to Newbold on August 26, 1997 for
8 "Premoistened Toilet Paper And Dispenser" (hereafter the "Newbold Patent");
9
- 10 7. United States Patent No. 5,697,577 issued to Ogden on December 16, 1997 for
11 "Premoistened Toilet Paper Dispenser" (hereafter the "Ogden Patent");
12
- 13 8. United States Patent No. 6,056,235 issued to Brozinsky on May 2, 2000 for
14 "Refillable Dispenser For Replacing Standard Roll Of Toilet Tissue with Roll Of Pre-Moistened
15 Wipes" (hereafter the "Brozinsky Patent");
16
- 17 9. United States Patent No. US 6,273,359 B1 issued to Newman on August 14,
18 2001 for "Dispensing System And Method For Premoistened Wipes" (hereafter the "Newman
19 Patent");
20
- 21 10. United States Patent No. US D450,960 S issued to Boyea on November 27, 2001
22 for "Wipes Container" (hereafter the "Boyea Patent");
23
- 24 11. United States Patent No. US D354,645 S issued to Jones on February 19, 2002
25 for "Toilet Paper Roll Dispenser" (hereafter the "Jones Patent");
26
- 27 12. United States Patent No. US 6,354,532 B1 issued to Escobedo on March 12,
28 2002 for "Toilet Paper Dispensing System" (hereafter the "Escobedo Patent");

1 13. United States Patent No. US D455,924 S issued to Zetsche on April 23, 2002 for
2 "Holder For Spare Toilet Paper" (hereafter the "Zetsche Patent");
3

4 14. United States Patent No. US 6,394,324 B1 issued to Chen on May 28, 2002 for
5 "Dispensing Device For Moist Towel" (hereafter the "Chen Patent");
6

7 15. United States Patent No. US D457,766 S issued to Omdoll on May 28, 2002 for
8 "Toilet Paper Dispenser" (hereafter the "Omdoll Patent");
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10 16. United States Patent No. US D458,490 S issued to Omdoll on June 11, 2002 for
11 "Toilet Paper Dispenser" (hereafter the "Omdoll Patent");
12

13 17. United States Patent No. US 6,405,972 B1 issued to Wakam on June 18, 2002 for
14 "Toilet Paper Roll Storage And Dispenser" (hereafter the "Wakam Patent");
15

16 18. United States Patent No. US D460,305 S issued to Fletcher on July 16, 2002 for
17 "Toilet Paper Roll Dispenser" (hereafter the "Fletcher Patent");
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19 19. United States Patent No. US D460,305 S issued to Fletcher on July 16, 2002 for
20 "Toilet Paper Roll Dispenser" (hereafter the "Fletcher Patent");
21

22 20. United States Patent No. US 6,422,503 B1 issued to Hoo Kong on July 23, 2002
23 for "Toilet Paper Roll Dispenser" (hereafter the "Hoo Kong Patent");
24

25 21. United States Patent No. US D361,667 S issued to Jordan on August 20, 2002 for
26 "Toilet Paper Tree" (hereafter the "Jordan Patent");
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- 1 22. United States Patent No. US D461,669 S issued to Cheng on August 20, 2002 for
- 2 "Floor Stand For Toilet Paper And A Toilet Bowl Brush" (hereafter the "Cheng Patent");
- 3
- 4 23. United States Patent No. US 6,443,043 B1 issued to Granger on September 3,
- 5 2002 for "Automatic Dispensing Apparatus For Paper Towels And Toilet Paper" (hereafter the
- 6 "Granger Patent");
- 7
- 8 24. United States Patent No. US 6,450,439 B1 issued to Van Rees on September 17,
- 9 2002 for "Toilet Paper Roll Dispenser" (hereafter the "Van Rees Patent");
- 10
- 11 25. United States Patent No. US 6,457,394 B1 issued to Granger on October 1, 2002
- 12 for "Wiping Material And Toilet Paper Dispensing Apparatus With Automatic Or Semiautomatic
- 13 Functioning" (hereafter the "Granger Patent");
- 14
- 15 26. United States Patent No. US 6,460,799 B1 issued to Ryan on October 8, 2002 for
- 16 "Toilet Paper Holding Device (hereafter the "Ryan Patent");
- 17
- 18 27. United States Patent No. US 6,474,209 B1 issued to Granger on November 5,
- 19 2002 for "Automatic Or Semi Automatic Wiping Material And Toilet Paper Dispenser"
- 20 (hereafter the "Granger Patent");
- 21
- 22 28. United States Patent No. US 6,476,365 B1 issued to Rios on November 5, 2002
- 23 for "Toilet Paper Dispenser" (hereafter the "Rios Patent");
- 24
- 25 29. United States Patent No. US D467,454 S issued to Le on December 24, 2002 for
- 26 "Container For Wipes" (hereafter the "Le Patent");
- 27
- 28

1 30. United States Patent No. US D468,113 S issued to Henning on January 7, 2003
2 for "Surface Pattern For Hygienic Articles Such As Paper Towels," (hereafter the "Henning
3 Patent");
4

5 31. United States Patent No. US D468,567 S issued to Trevett on January 14, 2003
6 for "Moist Wipes Container" (hereafter the "Trevett Patent");
7

8 32. United States Patent No. US 6,527,219 B1 issued to Trecartin on March 4, 2003
9 for "Toilet Paper Dispensing System" (hereafter the "Trecartin Patent");
10

11 33. United States Patent No. US D472,087 S issued to Goodman on March 25, 2003
12 for "Toilet Tissue Holder" (hereafter the "Goodman Patent");
13

14 34. United States Patent No. US 6,537,631B1 issued to Rivera on March 25, 2003 for
15 "Roll Of Wet Wipes" (hereafter the "Rivera Patent");
16

17 35. United States Patent No. US D472,414 S issued to Gilbert on April 1, 2003 for
18 "Toilet Tissue Holder" (hereafter the "Gilbert Patent");
19

20 36. United States Patent No. US 6,554,134 B1 issued to Guibert on April 29, 2003
21 for "Case For Products Such As Moist" (hereafter the "Guibert Patent");
22

23 37. United States Patent No. US 6,557,797 B1 issued to Bonamarte on May 6, 2003
24 for "Integral Toilet Paper Roll And Support Spindle" (hereafter the "Bonamarte Patent");
25

26 38. United States Patent No. US 6,568,625 B2 issued to Faulks on May 27, 2003 for
27 "Wet Wipes Dispenser And Mounting System" (hereafter the "Faulks Patent").
28

1 While the above prior art does disclose a dispenser for a roll of toilet paper and a
2 dispenser for premoistened towelettes, there is a significant need for an improved combination
3 retainer to retain objects which are useful to a person when a person is using a toilet.

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ROZSA & CHEN LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
15910 VENTURA BOULEVARD, SUITE 1601
ENCINO, CALIFORNIA 91436-2815
TELEPHONE (818) 783-0990

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In the preferred embodiment, the present invention is a combination holder to be used by a person when the person is using a toilet. The preferred embodiment includes an openable container to retain objects such as premoistened wipes. Beneath the openable container is an openable ring for retaining a roll of toilet paper from which sheets of toilet paper may be dispensed as needed. Beneath the openable ring is a tray for retaining objects such as air fresheners and /or any other toiletries which are useful for the person while the person is using the toilet. The tray is on an adjustable wall so that the distance between the tray and the openable ring can be increased to facilitate providing more vertical room above the tray. The preferred adjustable means is a ratchet mechanism so that any multiplicity of adjustable distances can be achieved between the openable ring and the tray.

In an alternative embodiment of the present invention, only the openable container to retain objects such as the premoistened wipes and the openable ring for retaining a roll of toilet paper are included.

In the broadest embodiment of the present invention, only the openable container to retain objects such as the premoistened wipes is included.

It has been discovered, according to the present invention, that retaining a full line of toilet items for use by a person when the person is using the toilet can be achieved through a combination of a slidable holder which includes an openable container to retain objects such as premoistened wipes, combined with an openable ring beneath the container, the openable ring used to retain a roll of toilet paper from which sheets of toilet paper may be dispensed as needed, combined with tray for retaining objects, the distance between the tray and the ring for holding toilet paper being adjustable to facilitate the height of the objects retained in the tray such as an air freshener or toiletries.

1 It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a retainer adjacent the toilet to
2 retain objects useful to a person while the person is using the toilet, including premoistened
3 towelettes, toilet paper, and other toiletries or air fresheners.

4

5 It is also an object of the present invention to provide a subcombination retainer for
6 retaining only the premoistened wipes and the roll of toilet paper or only the premoistened wipes.

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8 Further novel features and other objects of the present invention will become apparent
9 from the following detailed description, discussion and the appended claims, taken in
10 conjunction with the drawings.

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ROZSA & CHEN LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
15910 VENTURA BOULEVARD, SUITE 1601
ENCINO, CALIFORNIA 91436-2815
TELEPHONE (818) 783-0990

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Referring particularly to the drawings for the purpose of illustration only and not limitation, there is illustrated:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the present invention combination adjustable holder to retain premoistened wipes, a roll of toilet paper, and objects such as an air freshener and toiletries;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the present invention, illustrating the adjustment means to expand the lower tray for the combination adjustable holder to retain premoistened wipes, a roll of toilet paper, and objects such as an air freshener and toiletries:

FIG. 3 is an enlarged view of the adjustment ratchet mechanism from the embodiment of the present invention illustrated in Figure 2:

FIG. 3A is a cross-sectional view taken along line 3A-3A of Figure 3;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the present invention which is a combination holder to retain premoistened wipes and a roll of toilet paper:

FIG. 5 is a rear perspective view of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of another alternative embodiment of the present invention which is a holder to retain premoistened wipes; and

1 FIG. 7 is a rear perspective view of the embodiment of the present invention illustrated in
2 Figure 6.

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ROZSA & CHEN LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
15910 VENTURA BOULEVARD, SUITE 1601
ENCINO, CALIFORNIA 91436-2815
TELEPHONE (818) 783-0990

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Although specific embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the drawings, it should be understood that such embodiments are by way of example only and merely illustrative of but a small number of the many possible specific embodiments which can represent applications of the principles of the present invention. Various changes and modifications obvious to one skilled in the art to which the present invention pertains are deemed to be within the spirit, scope and contemplation of the present invention as further defined in the appended claims.

Referring to Figures 1 through 3, there is illustrated the preferred embodiment of the present invention combination holder 10. The top portion of the combination holder 10 comprises an openable container 20 having front wall 22, sidewalls 24 and 26, a back wall 36 (see Figure 5), and a bottom wall not shown. Back wall 36 extends for a distance below the container 20. The front wall 22, sidewalls 24 and 26, back wall 36 and bottom wall form a container into which objects can be placed. The preferred object is premoistened towelettes 200. The container 20 includes a top 30 which is rotatably connected to first raised wall 32 and second raised wall 34 which extends above sidewalls 24 and 26 respectively. The top 30 rests against sidewalls 24 and 26 and front wall 22 when in the closed condition as illustrated in Figure 1. The top 30 is rotatably opened to expose the premoistened towelettes 200 as illustrated in Figure 2.

Immediately below the openable container 20 is a vertical wall 40 having a front surface 42. A cylindrical support 50 is connected at the intersection of the bottom wall of container 20 and the front surface 42 of vertical wall 40. A ring 52 is rotatably supported on the cylindrical support 50. The ring 52 as illustrated is generally rectangular in shape with rounded corners, although any shape ring is within the spirit and scope of the present invention. The lower bar 54 of ring 52 holds a roll of toilet paper in a manner by which sheets of toilet paper can be unrolled in the conventional manner as the toilet paper is rolled on lower bar 54. The ring 52 is rotatably

1 supported on cylindrical support 50 so that the user can rotate the roll of toilet paper towards the
2 user in addition to rolling the roll of toilet paper on lower bar 54 of ring 52 as the toilet paper is
3 dispensed. The ring 50 is openable by means of a break 56 in the ring 52. The break includes
4 mating fastening means such as a male member 57 on one portion of the ring 52 adjacent the
5 break 56 and a mating female member 58 located on respective opposite portions of the ring 52
6 adjacent the break 56 as illustrated in the detailed view in Figure 3A. The toilet paper is inserted
7 onto the ring 52 at the location of the break when the male 57 and female 58 fastening members
8 are separated. After the toilet paper rests on lower bar 54, the ring 52 is closed.

9

10 The third component of the combination holder 10 is a tray 60 mounted on a slidable wall
11 80. The tray 60 comprises a front wall 62, a first sidewall 64, a second sidewall 66 and a bottom
12 wall (not shown). A portion of slidable wall 80 also serves as the rear wall of tray 60. Slidable
13 wall 80 is slidably mounted in an opening between vertical wall 40 and the portion of the rear
14 wall 36 extending below container 20. Rear wall 36 and vertical wall 40 are parallel. Slidable
15 wall 80 has a multiplicity of vertically aligned ratchet openings 82 having spaced walls 84. A
16 mating pawl or tooth member 85 is aligned on the front wall 40 and is a pushbutton which has a
17 mating tooth to catch a respective ratchet opening 82 to thereby position the tray 60 at any
18 desired elevation below ring 52 and also below the bottom wall of openable container 20. The
19 pushbutton 85 and its tooth are pushed in to release the tooth from a given ratchet opening 82 so
20 the wall 80 can be slid up and/or downward so that the tooth can catch another ratchet opening
21 82. The ratchet openings 82 and mating pawl 85 can be generally described as height adjustment
22 means.

23

24 A pair of parallel tracks 88 and 90 are formed within slidable wall 80 and are supported
25 on respective retaining members such as cylindrical dowels within the space between vertical
26 wall 40 and rear wall 36 so that slidable wall 80 will not come out of the space between vertical
27 wall 40 and rear wall 36.

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1 Through the present invention, the tray 60 can be at its uppermost position as illustrated
2 in Figure 1, at its lowermost position as illustrated in Figure 3, or at any elevation therebetween.
3 The tray 60 can hold an air freshener or any other toiletries useful to the user when the user is
4 using the toilet.

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6 Alternative mounting means can be used to mount the combination holder 10 to a wall
7 adjacent the toilet. The embodiment shown in Figures 4 and 5 is the same embodiment shown in
8 Figures 1 to 3 with the slidable wall 86 and tray 60 removed. As illustrated in Figure 5, the rear
9 wall 36 may have a multiplicity of openings such as three pairs of spaced apart parallel openings
10 101 and 102, 103 and 104 and 105 and 106 as illustrated. A pair of nails or screws can be placed
11 into the wall and aligned with one of the pairs of openings. Also, more nails or screws can be
12 placed in the wall to be aligned to two pairs or even three pairs of the parallel sets of openings in
13 the rear wall 36.

14

15 Another alternative mounting means is illustrated in Figure 7 which can also be placed on
16 the rear wall 36 of the embodiment on Figures 1 to 3. In this embodiment, a pair of parallel
17 spaced apart brackets 110 and 114 are mounted on rear wall 36. Bracket 110 has a rear elongated
18 opening 112 and bracket 114 has a rear elongated opening 116. A pair of nails or screws is
19 placed into the wall with each respective nail or screw slid through a respective opening 112 and
20 116 to be held by brackets 110 and 114.

21

22 It will be appreciated that the above two variations are only two of many different types
23 of mounting means by which the combination holder 10 can be mounted on the wall adjacent the
24 toilet.

25

26 While the preferred embodiment of the present invention is to have all three components,
27 namely the openable container 20, the ring 52 to rotatably support a roll of toilet paper and the
28 slidable tray 60 to hold an air freshener or other toiletries, it is also within the spirit and scope of

1 the present invention to have sub-combinations of the device. As illustrated in Figure 4, one
2 alternative sub-combination is to have only the openable container 20 to retain premoistened
3 towelettes and the ring 52 for retaining the roll of toilet paper. The broadest alternative
4 embodiment is to have only the openable container to retain premoistened towelettes.

5

6 In the preferred embodiment, the combination holder 10 is manufactured out of pre-
7 molded plastic. It will be appreciated that the holder 10 can be made out of any other suitable
8 material including polypropylene, polyvinyl or wood.

9

10 Defined in detail, the present invention is a combination holder for use with premoistened
11 towelettes, a roll of toilet paper, air freshener and toiletries, comprising: (a) a top portion having
12 an openable container having a front wall, sidewalls, a back wall which extends a distance below
13 the container, a bottom wall and a top which is rotatably mounted to the container, the front wall,
14 sidewalls, bottom wall, back wall and top surrounding an interior compartment; (b) a vertical
15 wall below the openable container, the vertical wall having a front surface and spaced apart from
16 the portion of the back wall which extends below the container so that an opening is formed
17 between the back wall and the vertical wall; (c) a cylindrical support connected to the vertical
18 wall at the location where the vertical wall and the bottom wall of the container intersect, the
19 cylindrical support rotatably supporting an openable ring having a lower horizontally disposed
20 bar; (d) a slidable wall supported within the opening between the back wall and the vertical wall,
21 the slidable wall having a multiplicity of ratchet teeth which respectively engage with a pawl
22 supported on the vertical wall so that the slidable wall can be slid to a desired distance below the
23 ring; and (e) a tray mounted on the slidable wall, the tray having a front wall, sidewalls and a
24 bottom, a portion of the slidable wall serving as the rear wall of the tray, the tray being open at its
25 top; (f) whereby, the openable container retains the premoistened wipes, the ring opens to receive
26 a roll of toilet paper and the ring rotatably retains the roll of toilet paper, and the tray retains the
27 air freshener and toiletries at any desired distance below the ring.

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Defined more broadly, the present invention is a combination holder for use with premoistened towelettes, a roll of toilet paper, and objects, comprising: (a) a top portion having an openable container having circumferential walls, a back wall which extends a distance below the container, a bottom wall and a top which is openably mounted to the container, the circumferential walls, bottom wall, back wall and top surrounding an interior compartment; (b) a vertical wall below the openable container, the vertical wall having a front surface and spaced apart from the portion of the back wall which extends below the container so that an opening is formed between the back wall and the vertical wall; (c) a support connected to the holder at a location below the openable container, the support rotatably supporting an openable ring; (d) a slidable wall supported within the opening between the back wall and the vertical wall, the slidable wall having adjustment means which work in concert with the vertical wall so that the slidable wall can be slid to a desired distance below the ring; and (e) a tray mounted on the slidable wall, the tray having a circumferential wall and a bottom, a portion of the slidable wall serving as the rear wall of the tray, the tray being open at its top; (f) whereby, the openable container retains the premoistened wipes, the ring opens to receive a roll of toilet paper and the ring rotatably retains the roll of toilet paper, and the tray retains the objects at any desired distance below the ring.

Of course the present invention is not intended to be restricted to any particular form or arrangement, or any specific embodiment, or any specific use, disclosed herein, since the same may be modified in various particulars or relations without departing from the spirit or scope of the claimed invention hereinabove shown and described of which the apparatus or method shown is intended only for illustration and disclosure of an operative embodiment and not to show all of the various forms or modifications in which this invention might be embodied or operated.

The present invention has been described in considerable detail in order to comply with the patent laws by providing full public disclosure of at least one of its forms. However, such detailed description is not intended in any way to limit the broad features or principles of the

1 present invention, or the scope of the patent to be granted. Therefore, the invention is to be
2 limited only by the scope of the appended claims.

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4 **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

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